United States Department of Agriculture - National Agricultural Statistics Service

WISCONSIN FARM REPORTER

Hired Workers Down 5 Percent in Lake Region; Wage Up 1 Cent from One Year Ago

There were 53,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin) during the reference week of April 6-12, 2014, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of $12.23 per hour during the April 2014 reference week, up 1 cent from April 2013. The number of hours worked averaged 36.9 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 37.6 hours in April 2013.

United States Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $12.00 per hour during the April 2014 reference week, up 1 percent from the April 2013 reference week. Field workers received an average of $11.01 per hour, an increase of 1 percent. Livestock workers earned $11.35 per hour, down 10 cents. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $11.11 per hour, was up 4 cents from the 2013 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 40.2 hours during the April 2014 reference week, compared with 40.5 hours worked during the April 2013 reference week.

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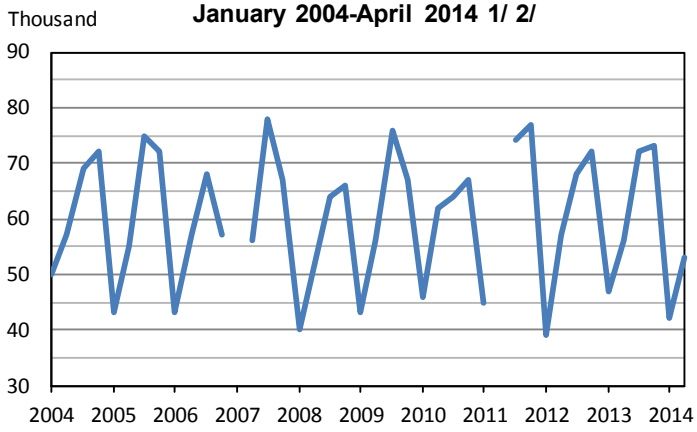
This Farm Reporter contains the results from the following surveys. Thanks for your help!

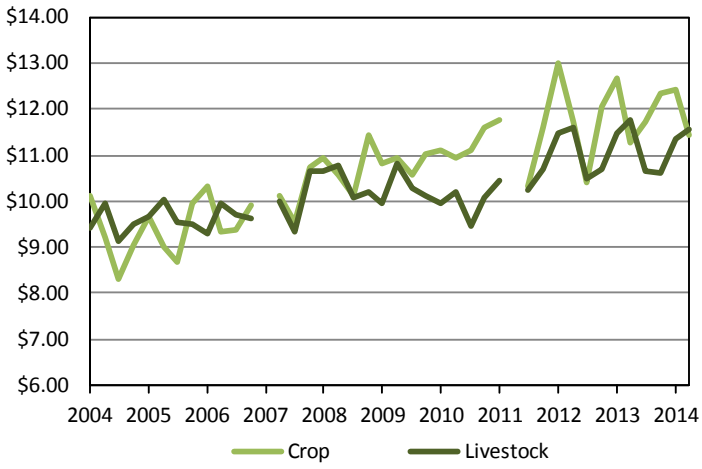
Milk Production Report
Dairy Products Report
Ag Yield Survey
Labor Survey

Number of Workers, Lake Region, January 2004-April 2014 1/ 2/



1/ Lake Region includes MI, MN, and WI. 2/ Surveys were not conducted in January 2007 and April 2011. Source: USDA, NASS

Wage Rates by Type of Worker, Lake Region, January 2004-April 2014 1/ 2/



1/ Lake Region includes MI, MN, and WI. 2/ Surveys were not conducted in January 2007 and April 2011. Source: USDA, NASS

WORKERS ON FARMS, HOURS WORKED PER WEEK, AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS, LAKE REGION AND UNITED STATES, APRIL 2013

	Lake Region 1/			United States 2/		
	April 2013	January 2014	April 2014	April 2013	January 2014	April 2014
	1,000 Workers					
Workers on Farms: Hired Workers 3/	56	42	53	736	540	688
	Hours per Week					
Hours Worked: Hired Workers 3/	37.6	36.1	36.9	40.5	38.9	40.2
	Dollars Per Hour					
Workers by Work Type 4/						
Field	11.29	12.43	11.42	10.88	11.10	11.01
Livestock	11.76	11.34	11.57	11.45	11.36	11.35
Field & Livestock	11.55	11.65	11.50	11.07	11.20	11.11
All Workers 3/	12.22	12.52	12.23	11.89	12.23	12.00

1/ Lake Region = Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin. 2/ Excludes Alaska. 3/ Excludes agricultural service workers. 4/ Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates. Source: USDA, NASS

Wisconsin Winter Wheat Production Forecast

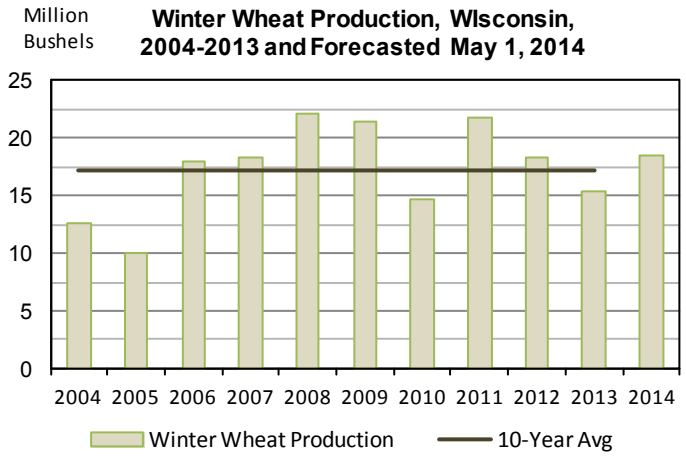
Winter wheat production in Wisconsin is forecast at 18.5 million bushels, up from 15.4 million bushels last year according to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service Crop Production Report. Wisconsin winter wheat growers intend to harvest 260,000 acres for grain, down 2 percent from 2013. Farmers anticipate winter wheat to yield 71 bushels per acre, up 13 bushels from last year. If realized, this will be the third highest yield on record.

Nationwide winter wheat production is forecast at 1.40 billion bushels, down 9 percent from 2013. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 32.6 million acres, up 1 percent from last year. As of May 1, the United States yield is forecast at 43.1 bushels per acre, down 4.3 bushels from the previous year.

Winter Wheat, Selected States, 2013 and Forecasted May 1, 2014

State	Area harvested		Yield		Production	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
	1,000 acres		Bushels		1,000 bushels	
WI	**265**	**260**	**58**	**71**	**15,370**	**18,460**
CO	1,640	2,550	27	33	44,280	84,150
ID	720	660	86	85	61,920	56,100
KS	8,400	8,400	38	31	319,200	260,400
MT	1,900	2,350	43	44	81,700	103,400
NE	1,130	1,420	35	39	39,550	55,380
NC	920	760	57	57	52,440	43,320
OK	3,400	3,300	31	19	105,400	62,700
SD	670	1,090	39	45	26,130	49,050
TX	2,250	1,900	29	29	65,250	55,100
WA	1,660	1,610	69	70	114,540	112,700
US	32,402	32,572	47.4	43.1	1,534,253	1,402,505

Source: USDA, NASS



Wisconsin Hay Stocks Up From May 2013

All hay stored on Wisconsin farms on May 1, 2014 totaled 435,000 tons, up from last year's record low but still the second lowest on record, according to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service *Crop Production* report. Disappearance from December 1, 2013 - May 1, 2014 totaled 2.47 million tons, compared with 1.40 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

All hay stored on United States farms May 1, 2014 totaled 19.2 million tons, up 35 percent from a year ago. This is the third lowest May 1 stocks level since 1989. Disappearance from December 1, 2013 - May 1, 2014 totaled 70.1 million tons, compared with 62.4 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

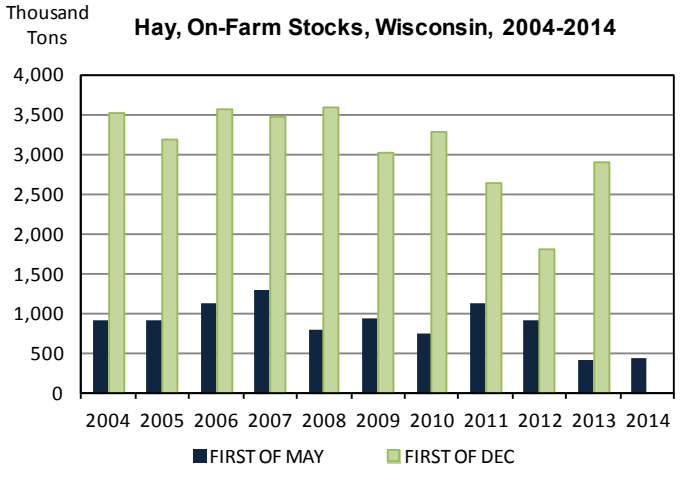
May 1 hay stocks levels were record-lows in California, Maine, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island.

May 1 hay stocks were up from 2013 as improved weather conditions lead to larger production totals in many States when compared with drought conditions in 2012. However, several regions saw declines in stocks levels when compared to a year ago due to lower production in the Southeast, drought conditions in the West and Southern Plains, and a cold, wet spring in the Northeast and parts of the Midwest.

Hay Stocks on Farms, May 1, 2014, Top 15 States

State	2013	2014
	1,000 tons	
MISSOURI	600	1,800
SOUTH DAKOTA	850	1,480
TEXAS	1,650	1,350
KANSAS	460	1,340
NORTH DAKOTA	880	1,200
NEBRASKA	610	1,150
OKLAHOMA	700	1,100
MONTANA	860	875
KENTUCKY	470	700
TENNESSEE	425	630
ARKANSAS	170	550
VIRGINIA	410	470
MINNESOTA	490	440
WISCONSIN	**410**	**435**
IOWA	290	410
United States	14,156	19,176

Source: USDA, NASS



Wisconsin Specialty Cheese Production Up 5 Percent

With 26 percent of the nation's production, Wisconsin maintained its ranking as the nation's top cheese producing state in 2013. At 640 million pounds, specialty cheese accounted for 22 percent of Wisconsin's total cheese production. This was an increase of 29.0 million pounds over 2012.

Of the state's 126 cheese plants, 93 manufactured at least one type of specialty cheese during 2013, one more plant than last year. Feta accounted for the largest share of specialty cheese production, with 13 percent of the total. Blue, Hispanic types, specialty Mozzarella, Parmesan Wheel, and specialty Provolone remain other popular varieties. Limburger cheese production rose 24 percent over the previous year, while Gorgonzola production was 12 percent higher.

Wisconsin cheese makers are known for offering a wide variety of high quality specialty cheeses. A specialty cheese is a value-added product which commands a premium price. According to the Wisconsin Specialty Cheese Institute, the nature of specialty cheese is derived from one or more unique qualities, such as exotic origin, particular processing or design, limited supply, unusual application or use, and extraordinary packaging or channel of sale. The common denominator is its very high quality**.**

SPECIALTY CHEESE PRODUCTION
Wisconsin, 2012 and 2013

Type	2012 No. of producers	2012 Revised Production	2013 No. of producers	2013 Production	Change from 2012
		1,000 lbs.		1,000 lbs.	Percent
Asiago	9	31,142	11	32,159	3
Cheddar 1/	33	31,330	36	31,801	2
Colby 1/	10	7,488	12	7,616	2
Farmers	14	2,119	15	1,710	-19
Feta	8	77,582	9	80,073	3
Gorgonzola	10	16,777	10	18,722	12
Gouda	16	11,366	20	10,551	-7
Italian Fontina	12	6,906	11	7,214	4
Hispanic	13	65,580	16	70,906	8
Limburger	1	439	1	544	24
Parmesan Wheel	8	52,523	6	53,728	2
Romano Wheel	8	9,265	7	8,847	-5
All Other 3/	56	298,641	58	316,317	6
Total 4/	**92**	**611,158**	**93**	**640,188**	**5**

1/ Includes only specialty types of this variety. 2/ Combined to avoid disclosure of individual plant data. Includes: American Grana, Auribella, Bel Pease, Blue, Brie, Butterkase, Camembert, Edam, Fior di Latte, Fontiago, Fontinella, Gruyere, Havarti, other specialty Italian, Italico, Juustoleipa, Kefalograviera Sagana, Kreme Kaese, Les Freres, Mascarpone, Middle Eastern cheeses, other specialty Monterey Jack, Morning Sun, specialty Mozzarella, other specialty Parmesan, Pepato, Peperon, other specialty Provolone, Raclette, other specialty Romano, Semi-soft, Swedish style Fontina, specialty Swiss, Tvarog Polish, and Yogurt cheese. 2/ Combined to avoid disclosure of individual plant data. Includes: American Grana, Auribella, Bel Pease, Blue, Brie, Butterkase, Camembert, Edam, Fior di Latte, Fontiago, Fontinella, Gruyere, Havarti, other specialty Italian, Italico, Juustoleipa, Kefalograviera Sagana, Kreme Kaese, Les Freres, Mascarpone, Middle Eastern cheeses, other specialty Monterey Jack, Morning Sun, specialty Mozzarella, other specialty Parmesan, Pepato, Peperon, other specialty Provolone, Raclette, other specialty Romano, Semi-soft, Swedish style Fontina, specialty Swiss, Tvarog Polish, and Yogurt cheese. 3/ Total cheese plants producing one or more specialty cheeses. Source: USDA, NASS

April Milk Production

Milk production in Wisconsin during April 2014 totaled 2.30 billion pounds, down less than 1 percent from April 2013, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Milk Production* report. The average number of milk cows during April, at 1.27 million head, was down 1,000 from last month. Monthly production per cow averaged 1,815 pounds.

Milk production in the 23 major States during April totaled 16.3 billion pounds, up 1.2 percent from April 2013. March revised production, at 16.7 billion pounds, was up 1.1 percent from March 2013. The March revision represented an increase of 6 million pounds or less than 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

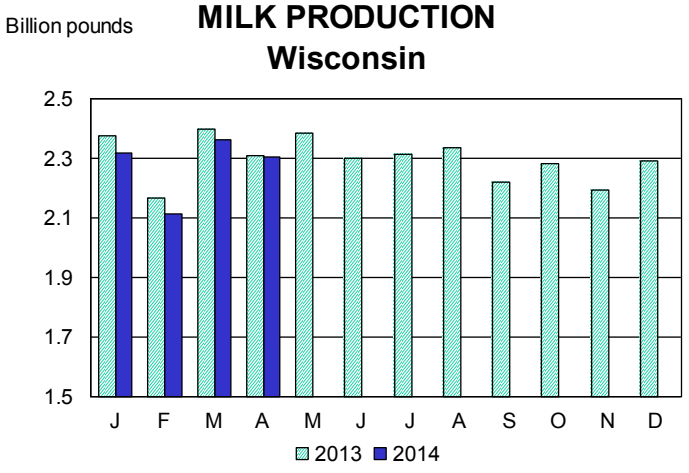
Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,911 pounds for April. This is the highest production per cow for the month of April since the 23 State series began in 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.53 million head, 10,000 head more than March 2014.

April Milk Production

State	Milk cows 1/		Rate per cow 2/		Production 2/		Production % chnge 2014/13
	2013 3/	2014	2013 3/	2014	2013	2014	
	Thousand head		Pounds		Million pounds		Percent
WI	**1,269**		**1,815**		**2,309**	**2,303**	**n.c.**
CA	1,781		2,065		3,622	3,678	+2
ID	570		1,980		1,117	1,129	+1
MI	383		2,050		765	785	+3
MN	459		1,640		774	753	-3
NM	323		2,135		700	690	-1
NY	615		1,845		1,132	1,135	n.c.
PA	531		1,705		904	905	n.c.
TX	447		1,985		816	887	+9
23-state total	8,531		1,911		16,105	16,305	+1

1/Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/Excludes milk sucked by calves. 3/Survey was not conducted in April and July, resulting in no milk cow and milk per cow data for March through June 2013. Source: USDA, NASS



Marketings, Income, and Value of Milk Production: Wisconsin, 2009-2013

Year	Combined marketings of milk and cream				Used for milk, cream, and butter by producers		Gross producer income 1/	Value of milk produced 2/ 3/
	Milk Utilized	Average returns		Cash receipts from marketings	Milk Utilized	Value		
		Per cwt. milk	Per lb. milkfat					
	Million lbs.	Dollars		1,000 dollars	Million lbs.	1,000 dollars		
2009	24,967	13.10	3.54	3,270,677	20	2,620	3,273,297	3,306,309
2010	25,759	16.10	4.41	4,147,199	20	3,220	4,150,419	4,191,635
2011	25,779	20.30	5.46	5,233,137	20	4,060	5,237,197	5,289,774
2012	26,956	19.40	5.19	5,229,464	18	3,492	5,232,956	5,281,456
2013	**27,298**	**20.30**	**5.36**	**5,541,494**	**19**	**3,857**	**5,545,351**	**5,597,116**

1/Cash receipts from marketings of milk and cream plus value of milk used for home consumption. 2/Includes value of milk fed to calves. 3/Value at average returns per 100 pounds of milk in combined marketings of milk and cream. Source: USDA, NASS

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